

J.M.J.

Rensselaer, July 13, 1888

My Dear Father Stephan,

A man came here with a letter from Father Dominick stating that you sent him. He was here overnight, then went yesterday to get his clothes, Mr. Schlachter. I had already sent up to Wisconsin and hired a man by the year. I did not know that you had sent a man. He only just came. I was completely discouraged with the help I had, and saw that I must have somebody on whom I could depend.

Rain

We have had continual rain, till day before yesterday. I said Mass for good weather. During Mass the sun came out and it did not rain since. Considerable of our corn is ruined. On the high ground it will still be good. I am in hopes that we shall be able to harvest 1000 bushels. I also think we shall have potatoes enough for the year, though the rain has ruined all on low ground.

Rye

The rye is very ripe. We are trying to cut it, but it is all in the water and mud so the team gets stuck often. We use 5 horses on the team. We are trying to save it, doing the best we can.

Grass

We have 200 acres to mow. The grass is good. But little of it is ready to cut. On that part the water stands one foot deep. The ground is drying very fast for 2 days, and we shall be able to get to cutting grass next week if the weather is good.

The machines and rake are all ready. Oil is bought. Everything is ready to begin as soon as we can. All the horses, cattle and other stock are doing well. The building is going on. Floors are all laid (i.e. rough floors) and the brick work of the last story is going on. They must now wait for brick.

I hope you will come soon.

Affectionately in Xto,

George L Willard